



Extended Unemployment Benefits

Congress recently passed and President Bush signed an extension of unemployment insurance benefits. This extension will grant eligible individuals an amount equal to half of their original entitlement.

The Idaho Department of Labor is in the process of updating its computer programming to conform with the requirements of the extension and to determine individuals who will be potentially eligible.

Potentially eligible individuals will be receiving a letter notifying them of their monetary eligibility. These letters will begin being mailed the week of July 21. Once eligible individuals turn in the paperwork, they will be placed on extended benefits. To collect extended benefits, claimants must certify weekly that they are able, available and actively seeking full-time work.

Some other information about the extension:

- Individuals must have exhausted regular unemployment compensation and their benefit year ended no earlier than **May 1, 2007**.
- No payment of federal emergency benefits will be made for any week beginning after **June 30, 2009**.